



March 30, 2006

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Highway 101 GAP Closure Projects Status Report, Including Puerto Suello Hill Soundwall and Bike Path, Results of March 27, 2006 Public Meeting – Agenda Item 10

Dear Commissioners:

Executive Summary

Regarding the status of the award of the Segment 3 project in Central San Rafael, there is no decision as of the date of this mailout from Sacramento Superior Court following the final hearing on the matter on March 14, 2006. It is anticipated that the judge will make a ruling by March 31, 2006. Construction is anticipated to start in April.

Regarding the status of design delivery of the multi-use path and soundwall, staff has continued refining the design of the multi-use path including access at Linden Avenue, an undercrossing at the Lincoln Avenue ramps and the terminus at Mission Avenue and Stevens Place. In addition, staff has further refined the design of the sound absorption material system on the sound walls. The aesthetics of the path and sound reduction features was presented at a public information meeting on March 27, 2006. A review of the meeting, and resultant final staff recommendations will be presented at the Board meeting.

Recommendation

Authorize staff to complete the design package for the soundwall and multi-use path as presented and amended by TAM Commissioners.

Following is a summary of activity on the various Highway 101 project elements:

Corte Madera Creek

The completion of the Corte Madera Creek Gap Closure Project and Sir Francis Drake Contract Change Order (CCO) work has been further delayed due to rain. Approximately three more weeks of work remain on the Sir Francis Drake CCO work. Note that Highway 101 does not receive a final asphalt concrete overlay as part of this project, but that there is repair work planned on the longitudinal pavement joints.

Central San Rafael – Contract Award

Mitchell Engineering contested the award of the contract to the second low bidder and filed a request for a stay against the award of the project to Ghilotti Bros. A Sacramento Superior Court judge has been hearing arguments in the case, the most recent hearing of on March 14, 2006. As of the date of this mailout, the judge's ruling and Caltrans reaction to it are unknown. It is

anticipated that once the judge's ruling is known, the award of the contract will proceed, with construction expected to start by mid April 2006.

A public information meeting/open house regarding the project took place on March 2, 2006 at the San Rafael Community Center on B Street. Approximately 41 members from the public attended the meeting, a majority of whom were from San Rafael and were concerned about the impact of the project on their business or place of employment. Three attendees were from Sonoma County and one from San Francisco. The meeting provided useful information on the planned construction and traffic impacts.

A ground breaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for April 2006, once the contract award hearing results are known.

Puerto Suello Hill – Multi Use Path

The aesthetics of the path and the details of the soundwall design and noise absorption capabilities were presented at a public information meeting on March 27, 2006 at the City of San Rafael Council Chambers. In particular, the following elements were thoroughly presented and reviewed by the public:

- The terminus of the path at Stevens Place and Mission Avenue
- A "break-away" path at Linden Avenue to provide an access point for the Lincoln Avenue and Dominican communities
- An undercrossing option at the Lincoln Avenue ramps
- Sound-absorbing material options considered and the recommended strategy to be used.

Staff will report on the result of this meeting at the March 30, 2006 Board meeting.

The schedule for including these elements into the Caltrans Highway design project is as follows:

- 95% Level of Design Complete - April 2006
- Bid Ready Package – June 2006
- Funding approval – July/August 2006
- Begin Construction with Mainline Project – January 15, 2007
- Complete Construction – December, 2008
- It is estimated that the cost for the construction of the baseline multi-use path will be approximately \$7M

Puerto Suello Hill - Sound Reduction Strategy

Staff and the Nolte design team will be presenting the expected benefits and best practices for using open graded asphalt on the highway, and recommended options to include sound absorption materials on the freeway face of the east and west sound walls at a public information meeting held on March 27, 2006 as described above. The team will present the results of this meeting at the March 30, 2006 Board Meeting.

Staff will also be presenting the aesthetics of the multi-use path and soundwalls at the City of San Rafael Design Review Board Meeting on April 4, 2006, seeking input.

It is anticipated that the cost for including sound absorption material on the east soundwall and on the west soundwall north of the Coleman pedestrian overcrossing, as an incremental increase over the original wall funding, will be as follows:

West Wall	\$0.8M
<u>East Wall</u>	<u>\$2.9M</u>
Total	\$3.7M

Design Options for further consideration:

There are a number of optional design elements brought to TAM staff's attention that will be discussed at the Board meeting. Design changes to the path may also be recommended at the March 27th Public Meeting. Staff will be seeking Board input on how to proceed on these options. They include grade changes to the path and landscaping along wide areas of the path. Cost impacts could exceed \$1 million, and schedule impacts could result as well. These will be discussed in detail at the Board meeting after the March 27th Public Meeting.

Cost Summary

Staff is finalizing a cost and funding plan for the entire Hwy 101 Corridor, in concert with Caltrans and MTC. A draft of that plan for the Puerto Suello Hill segment of the project is attached. The plan shows the fund sources that are scheduled to fund each element of this segment. Not all of the sources are secured, and won't be until later this Spring, particularly the fate of the STIP funds. The funds available affect what optional features TAM can pursue for the multi-use path and the soundwall. This will be discussed in greater detail at the TAM Board meeting.

Recommendation

Authorize staff to complete the design package for the soundwall and multi-use path as presented and amended by TAM Commissioners.

Attachment: Exhibit A 101 HOV Gap Closure
Puerto Suello Hill, Segment 4 Funding Plan

EXHIBIT A
101 HOV GAP CLOSURE
PUERTO SUELLO HILL, SEGMENT 4 FUNDING PLAN

Project Element	Estimated Cost	Funding Source		Comments
		Amount	Source	
Hwy 101 - HOV Lanes -Construction	\$28,000,000	\$19,722,000	CMAQ	Obligated in 2005 and fully available
(without west soundwall)		\$7,473,000	06 STIP	Unprogrammed, subj to STIP adoption May06
		\$805,000	Meas A	FY 08/09 likely cash flow need
Total		\$28,000,000		
Environmental Clearance	\$125,000	\$125,000	Meas A	FY 05/06
Total		\$125,000		
PS&E	\$1,411,500	\$1,411,500	Meas A	FY 05/06
Total		\$1,411,500		
Multi-use Path - Construction	\$7,000,000	\$2,432,000	TE	CTC alloca July06, fund swap with Measure A
		\$3,480,000	CMAQ	Obligation pending thru Caltrans, fund swap
		\$1,088,000	Meas A	FY 08/09 likely cash flow
Total		\$7,000,000		
Soundwalls & Sound Absorption Material - Construction	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000	Meas A	FY 06/07 likely cash flow
Total	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000		
Total Measure A swap		\$5,912,000		
Total Measure A to be allocated (including swap)		\$21,514,000		Assumes all Measure A noted for environmental, design, and construction. Assumes STIP funds not available, project costs accurate.